

6 August 1986
MJN 8612

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Jordan Bureau--July 1986

I. GENERAL

The visit to Jordan of Vice President Bush from 30 July to 2 August almost totally preoccupied the embassy for the entire month. Complicating the visit was the 2-day stay of the vice president's party in Aqaba, which necessitated duplicate logistical arrangements.

The bureau contributed six spare Extel printers for use in the control/press centers set up both in Amman and Aqaba. Bureau technician [redacted] provided much-needed technical and maintenance assistance.

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The visit was highlighted, as far as the American community in Jordan was concerned, by a reception at the Marriott Hotel at which the vice president and Mrs. Bush mingled with the assembled multitude.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. With the official closure of Gulf Bureau operations on 30 July, Jordan Bureau assumed primary coverage responsibilities for one additional press agency, four voice casts and 11 newspapers. The additional coverage includes the following:

- a. Bahrain: Manama WAKH Arabic/English
- b. Iraq: Baghdad Domestic Arabic
- c. Kuwait: AL-ANBA', AL-QABAS, AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM and AL-SIYASAH in Arabic, and the TIMES in English
- d. Oman: Muscat Domestic Arabic, 'UMAN in Arabic, and the DAILY OBSERVER in English
- e. Saudi Arabia: AL-DAMMAN AL-YAWM in Arabic and the SAUDI GAZETTE in English
- f. UAE: Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic and Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
- g. YAR: Sanaa VOP Arabic and Sanaa Domestic Arabic

2. The Jordanian Government closed 25 PLO offices in Jordan on 7 July and expelled Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, due to "irresponsible, misleading utterances" by some prominent Fatah Revolutionary Council members against Jordan and its pan-Arab stands. The government also stated that this action was due to the sharp criticism in a 19 June Fatah Revolutionary Council statement "assailing" Jordan and its "clear policy." This was followed by a rare news conference on 12 July given by King Husayn to "local, Arab and foreign" journalists.

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At the press conference the king expressed full support for the Soviet-French proposal for an international conference on the Middle East. The text of the 44-minute Husayn news conference was broadcast by Jordan Television on the 13th, and was filed priority in seven takes.

3. The 22 July meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres and Moroccan King Hassan II caused "strong" reactions throughout the region. Syria, which reacted in the severest manner, immediately broke diplomatic relations with Morocco, calling the action by King Hassan II "treasonous" and comparing it to the Al-Sadat Camp David meeting. The 2-minute Syrian statement was filed immediate.

4. In response to a request from Tel Aviv Bureau, we assumed responsibility for coverage of the West Bank Arabic papers from 28 June through 28 July during their Persian/Arabic monitor's leave.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. The bureau's monitorial staff increased by three during the month, with the EOD of monitor trainees [redacted] on the 20th and the transfer from Gulf Bureau of Monitor Specialist [redacted] on the 17th.

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2. Monitor [redacted] was promoted to FBN-10/1 Senior Monitor on 8 June.

3. Commo operators [redacted] received PSI's to FBN-6/9 on 6 July.

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4. Deputy Chief [redacted] departed for PCS to Headquarters on 21 July.

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[redacted]
Chief, Jordan Bureau

ATT: Monthly Production Report